



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire

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February 10, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

By e-mail

Re: Request for support from the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario

Prime Minister,

Further to our recent discussions, and on behalf of Ottawa City Council, I am writing to formally request the Government of Canada provide all necessary financial and logistical supports required to bring the current occupation in Ottawa to a peaceful end and allow the City of Ottawa to return to normal.

I would like to draw to your attention that Ottawa City Council approved the following Motion at the Special City Council meeting of February 7, 2022:

MOTION

Moved by: Councillor L. Dudas
Seconded by: Councillor R. King

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has now declared a State of Emergency in response to the continued illegal occupation of Ottawa's downtown core;

WHEREAS lead organizers for the occupation have released statements being unequivocal about their demands: they seek to hold the City of Ottawa hostage as leverage against the Federal and Provincial Governments, and they have no intention of ending their campaign and leaving the city until their demands are met;

WHEREAS the methods used by these individuals to illegally occupy the City of Ottawa, and terrorize residents and businesses, utilize unprecedented tactics that have no place in a free and democratic society, such as Canada and mark an intolerable departure from what could be considered lawful protest. Including: the

24-hour blasting of airhorns; tractor trailers blockading streets; makeshift structures popping up; vehicles driving around residential streets with open tanks of fuel; numerous propane tanks being stashed away under tarps; and the widespread harassment of residents, businesses, and journalists;

WHEREAS the use of racist and anti-Semitic flags and xenophobic symbols; the mockery of Indigenous culture; the harassment and denigration of residents within the 2SLGBTQI+ community; as well as the defacing of national and Indigenous monuments have left residents fearful for their safety;

WHEREAS since their arrival in Ottawa, the occupation has been spreading out to other parts of the city. With staging areas now in suburban areas and trucks blocking residential streets, as well as into the ByWard Market - far from the Parliamentary Precinct where demonstrations are not only anticipated, but are welcomed;

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Chief has been clear: this occupation is so unprecedented, the Ottawa Police Service does not have the resources to adequately address the situation. If this siege is going to end, it will require more than just those resources from the OPS;

WHEREAS the tactics used by these individuals set a very dangerous precedent, and regardless of the cause or beliefs, this is an unacceptable departure from lawful forms of protest, that cannot be condoned nor allowed to continue;

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa does not have the power, the authority, nor the jurisdiction to meet the demands from the individuals occupying our city, leaving Ottawa as collateral damage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, supported by City Council, formally and publicly call on both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to step in and immediately provide all necessary financial and logistical supports required to bring this occupation to a peaceful end and allow the City of Ottawa to return to normal.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Watson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

